



The National Sporting Library NEWSLETTER

A RESEARCH CENTER FOR HORSE AND FIELD SPORTS

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The Magic of Sir Alfred Munnings

Lorian Peralta-Ramos

One summer day in 1899, a young and promising painter named Alfred Munnings decided to celebrate the acceptance of his first two works by London's Royal Academy. He took a day off and with a friend went to the Bungay Races.

"I saw the thoroughbred horses and jockeys in bright silk colors, going off down the course," he later recalled. "...And I began to live."

Sir Alfred Munnings would go on to be the new century's most brilliant painter of horses. He was as revolutionary to the sporting scene in the 20th

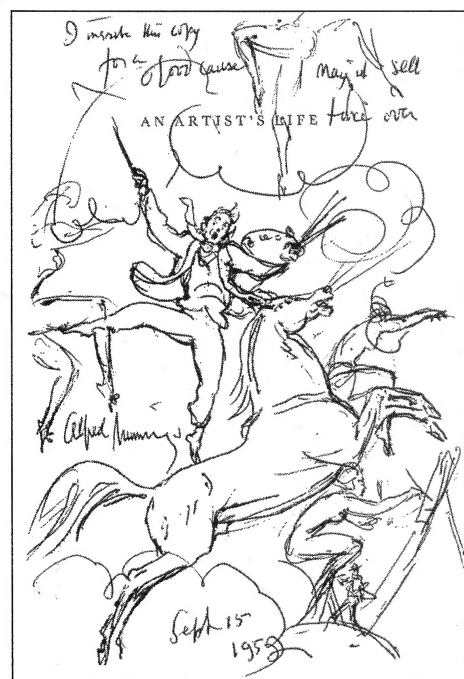
century as Stubbs's scientific approach had been to the portrayal of the equine image in the 18th century.

Part of his genius was founded on an intense knowledge of horse anatomy combined with his early technical training as a lithographer. Part rests on his understanding of the vision of French Impressionists.

Munnings was an uncompromising realist and could portray a horse with unerring accuracy. But to this art form he brought a distinctive mark of magic.

By interpreting their body language—the angle of the head, the flick of an ear, the clench of a jaw—Munnings infused his horses with a vitality that went beyond three-dimensional form.

He was able to breathe such life into his work that the paint depicting a horse's coat almost appeared to be supported by muscle and bone. With deliberate brush strokes,



The NSL rare book collection includes a unique autographed set of Sir Alfred Munnings's three-volume autobiography, embellished with original pen-and-ink sketches. The books are part of John H. Daniels's 5000-volume gift to the NSL.

Munnings painted anatomical perfection, but he combined this form with the brilliance of Impressionism enabling him to capture true sunlight and shadow.

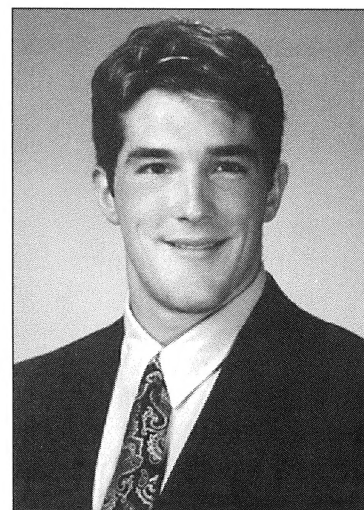
Alfred James Munnings, son of a Suffolk miller, was born in 1878 at Mendham, England. It was the gift of a new toy horse that inspired numerous childhood drawings and ignited a lifetime romance with the horse. His extraordinary talent for art also was recognized at an early age.

At age 14, he was apprenticed to Page Brothers, a Norwich (continued on page 2)

Weber Named NSL Librarian

Robert K. Weber, who holds master's degrees in American history and library science, has been appointed librarian of the National Sporting Library.

Weber, 26, succeeds Laura Rose who resigned to pursue other interests. His appointment is one of a number of staff changes announced in recent months.



Rob Weber joins the NSL staff in February.

Ellen Horner, a steeplechase rider and graduate in French literature from the University of Colorado, has joined the NSL as director of operations.

Lisa Campbell has returned as assistant librarian, a post she previously held in 1996.

Rebecca Smith of Middleburg is the new (continued on page 7)

The Magic of Munnings

(continued from page 1) lithography firm, where he developed a deliberate hand and keen attention to detail—skills essential in later years for capturing ever-changing light and movement. His great technical dexterity was further sharpened by formal tutelage at the Norwich Art School, which he attended in the evenings.

In fact, the full quotation of Munnings about his day at Bungay Races reads: "I saw the thoroughbred horses and jockeys in bright silk colors, going off down the course. The peaceful School of Art, the smelly artists' room at Page Brothers faded away—and I began to live."

His first years as an independent artist were spent traveling the countryside in a gypsy caravan. Later, he painted horse sales and fairs, hunts and point-to-points, local characters and picturesque gypsies and charming rural landscapes.

This life came to an end in World War I when he became the official artist to the Canadian Cavalry Brigade stationed in France in 1918. There he produced a body of work that was included in a wartime exhibition in London the following year. It was this collection that won him recognition as a significant painter of formal equestrian portraits and established his reputation

Upcoming Events the NSL

4 February "The Great Black Jockeys"
Lecture by Author Edward Hotaling
16 February *Outfoxed* Book Signing
with Author Rita Mae Brown
24 February Steeplechase Films (first
in a series of fourth-Thursday-of-the-
month evening film programs)
17 March "The Horse in Virginia"
Exhibition Opening
23 March Film Night
7 April Flyfishing Demonstration and
Lecture by Author "Lefty" Kreh
27 April Film Night

Sir Alfred Munnings: A Prime Meeting

Bill Prime, a 21-year-old between college and medical school, fulfilled every parent's dream by putting his summer abroad to good cultural use.

While wandering through Piccadilly, young Prime glimpsed a familiar painting in the window of the Royal Academy. Inside he found a full-fledged Munnings exhibit displayed on those hallowed walls. Munnings was Bill's sister's favorite artist, and his prints lined the walls of Eve's room at the family home back in Virginia. Eve Fout, nee Prime, now a noted sculptor in her own right, even then intently studied masters like Munnings.

Having discovered the Munnings exhibition, Prime returned to view it time and again. With youthful cheek, he asked the receptionist repeatedly for the artist's phone number. Eventually she acquiesced. Prime wanted Munnings to autograph copies of *An Artist's Life*, his autobiography.

Munnings finally agreed to a brief meeting at his London club. Prime said that while reserved Britons may not wish to make new acquaintances, once introduced, they treat newcomers like long lost friends. Munnings not only invited Prime down to his house in the country—the suddenly shy Prime declined—but also offered to sell any one of his landscapes to him for a hundred pounds. Prime couldn't afford that out of his travel budget and was too embarrassed to call home and ask for money. Given the price a Munnings landscape might fetch today—perhaps \$20,000 or more—that is one such call any parent would have welcomed.

-Jackie Burke

among the aristocracy, royalty and the sophisticated racing world.

He married Miss Violet McBride, a nationally known show jumper with great connections and a good head for business. Together they purchased and moved into Castle House in Dedham where Munnings lived for the remainder of his life.

In 1924 Munnings made his one and only visit to the United States, receiving several commissions from prominent American families up and down the East Coast. His work for the Mellons, the Phipps and the Guests, among others, served him well as commissions proliferated on both sides of the Atlantic.

During his lifetime, Munnings had 289 works in the Royal Academy. He became its president in 1944, at which time Munnings received his knighthood (continued on page 3)

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Robert Weber, *Librarian*
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Ellen Horner, *Director of Operations*
Peter Winants, *Director Emeritus*

Porter's NSL Lecture Doses Out Winning Advice

George Rowand, Fauquier Times-Democrat Racing Writer

The crowd of 60 or more gathered for the NSL lecture "How to Breed a Stakes Winner" was notable for one thing: most had bred one stakes winner or more, and they still came to hear what Alan Porter had to say.

For his part, Porter brought pretty good credentials to the task.

The author of two books on breeding—*Patterns of Greatness* and *Patterns of Greatness II*—Porter has planned the matings for more than 70 stakes winners, including champions on four continents.

"The first secret is that there is no secret," he said. "There is no answer. Great horses can appear in any form."

Porter gave a couple of examples.

"Secretariat was about as great an outcross as you can get, while Coronation V (which won the Prix de l'Arc de Triumph) was inbred to Tourbillion two by two."

The first secret is that there is no secret.... Great horses can appear in any form.

An outcross is an animal without any of the same relatives in five or more generations, while an inbred

has multiple crosses of the same ancestor(s). In this example, Secretariat had none of the same ancestors duplicated; Coronation was a son of Tourbillion out of a mare by Tourbillion, thus "two (generations back) by two."

Showing how great horses were bred in the past is an interesting pastime, but what about the future? What about something to use now to breed a good horse?

"If you look at the great breeders, Federico Tesio, Lord Derby, they all practiced inbreeding to superior individuals," Porter said. "Inbreeding is nothing to be afraid of."

Some critics of inbreeding have suggested that (continued on page 7)

The Magic of Munnings

(continued from page 2) from George VI. He died in 1959.

The extraordinary increase in the price of his works in recent years speaks to the honor now associated with his painting.

Today, Munnings is regarded as more than a sporting painter, and his non-equestrian works are fully appreciated for their undeniable mastery. The world now recognizes that he maintains a distinguished position among Britain's acclaimed portrait and landscape artists, as well as among the great masters of British Impressionism.

This article is excerpted from a lecture by Lorian Peralta-Ramos sponsored by the British Friends of Sporting Art and the National Sporting Library and given at Foxcroft School. Peralta-Ramos is writing what is expected to be the definitive work on Sir Alfred Munnings.

NSL Research Sources

Munnings's Letters Offer Rare Insight

For those who wish to learn more about the art of Sir Alfred Munnings, the National Sporting Library is a treasure trove. Among the many books at the Library that focus on Munnings are three particularly noteworthy sources.

The first (must reading!) is Munnings's three-volume autobiography, published in London in 1930 by Museum Press Limited. The books that lead us through the life of the great artist are appropriately named – *An Artist's Life*, *The Second Burst* and *The Finish*.

The second source for art enthusiasts is an attractive coffee-table book, *A. J. Munnings, R. A., Pictures of Horses and English Life*. Eyre & Spottiswoode Limited, London, published this complete biography in 1928. It has 28 color plates and 107 black-and-white reproductions.

The final source is unique: a fat, red binder shelved as part of the John H. and Martha Daniels Collection in the Rare Book Room contains a number of letters back and forth between Munnings and his wife, Violet, and William and Charlotte Coxe-Wright of Pennsylvania. Here, students of Munnings will gain insight that is not available elsewhere. Some of Munnings's letters goad Coxe-Wright into buying specific pictures, while others complain of taxes and the stresses in the life of an artist. Violet's letters, on the other hand, are quite chatty, with references to the weather, Sir Alfred's health and activities of Black Prince, her much-loved Pekinese.

- Jackie Burke

William Steinkraus

Vision of Founders Fulfilled

William Steinkraus has been a concert violinist, author, book publisher - and Olympic gold medal winner. Substituting for Penny Chenery, Steinkraus delivered a memorable and eloquent keynote address before an audience of 500 at the NSL dedication. The following is the text of that speech.

Ken Tomlinson emphasized brevity when he deputized me to stand in for Penny. Just remember pinch-hitters average 150 to 160% for the league. So I could say, having just been through the new building, that words fail me and just sit down. I have jotted down a few hen scratches on the back of a piece of paper, but don't know what I'm going to say as of this moment, except that it will be brief.

Penny was going to talk to you on the importance of the sporting life. I love her chosen topic. I could spend a week preparing on that subject and talk about it at some length.

I do have a quick answer for it, though. That is sport is an essential part of a balanced life, and that makes it truly important. I think along with the material side of life, there are things you do for their own sake alone. Sport is one, art is one. In a balanced life I think you have work, family, one of the arts, and sport. That's the really essential thing, and close to the Greek ideal.

The continuity of sport usually passes from generation to genera-

tion by didactical instruction or example. Some of us have learned a lot about hunting from watching Mr. Poe, the immortal Melvin. That's one way, but you can also learn vicariously from other people's experience as they transcribe in books. The lore, the knowledge, the history you can find in books is very precious. Reading led me, luckily enough, to learn a little bit about horseback riding, both from your local resident Morton W. "Cappy" Smith, but also from Antoine de Pluvinel, a 17th-century author, and Francois Robicion de la Gueriniere, and the Duke of Newcastle.

The National Sporting Library is a superb repository for all kinds of works, pictures and manuscripts

***Sport is an
essential part of a
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relating to horses and field sports. Today marks an extremely important milestone in National Sporting Library evolution. When the library was started by George Ohrstrom Sr. and Alexander Mackay-Smith, it was for them a vision.

The collection at first grew kind of slowly, with its emphasis on foxhunting and the horse. I thought of the National Sporting Library through the years as being a little bit parochial. I thought it very important for a town like Middleburg with its wonderful tradition to have such a library, but

that its sphere of influence was kind of limited to Middleburg and Virginia.

The vision of the founders remained partially unfulfilled. People would ask me about the National Sporting Library, and I would say, well, that before you answer that question, you have to ask other questions.

Does the collection have breadth? It certainly does, especially today with addition of the fine sporting collection of John Daniels.

Does it have a representative sample of standard and reference works? Yes, it does.

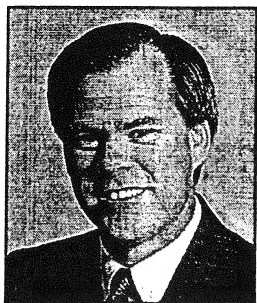
Does it have a large number of great rarities? Absolutely. The next question is what kind of physical plant does it have; is it accessible to scholars as well as the general public? Is it fireproof, climate controlled and secure? In other words, is it worthy of its collection? I would have had to answer no. It's in the basement of a wonderful old building, Vine Hill, which it shares with *The Chronicle of the Horse*. And—the next step in its incarnation is going to be to bite the bullet and find a building for it.

Well, we didn't have to find a building. We started from scratch through the generosity and far-sightedness of George Ohrstrom Jr. Today with the opening we have a truly magnificent building. The founders' vision is now fulfilled.

In other words, as it stands today, the National Sporting Library is a genuine big deal, and it's a big deal not just in Middleburg and Virginia and the Eastern United States and all of the United States, but a big deal for bibliophiles around the world. I couldn't be more thrilled to be here on this very historic occasion and to have all of you here with me.

In our next issue:

John H. Daniels
treats us to "Some
Reminiscences of
a Passionate Book
Collector"



What's Going on Here

By Ray Paulick

Preserving the past

Few leisure activities on this continent have the heritage or history that equine sports proudly possess. Virginia's Audley Farm, a long-standing Thoroughbred operation that at one time was owned by the family of our first president, George Washington, recently celebrated its 250th anniversary. Theodore Roosevelt, the 26th president, organized the first U.S. cavalry and was an avid fox hunter. In more modern times, Jacqueline Kennedy, the First Lady during the "Camelot" presidency of John F. Kennedy, was an accomplished equestrienne.

Thankfully, there are individuals—past and present—who have dedicated themselves to preserving the great heritage of horse and field sports. The by-product of their financial and intellectual contributions is the world-class National Sporting Library in Middleburg, Va., which moved into a glorious new home on Sept. 18 with the dedication of a 15,000-square-foot building adjacent to Vine Hill, the 195-year-old brick mansion that housed the library since 1969.

George L. Ohrstrom Sr. and Alexander Mackay-Smith founded the library in 1954, and it has enjoyed the support of such people as the late philanthropist and horseman, Paul Mellon, of nearby Upperville, Va. Mellon bequeathed \$1 million to the library, and his many other donations include paintings, bronzes, and antique weathervanes.

Most prominent of these gifts is the 1996 Tessa Pullan statue of a weary Civil War horse, which stands outside the entrance to the museum. Commissioned by Mellon, the statue is dedicated to the 1.5 million horses and mules that died from disease or were killed or wounded during that costly war. Mellon is said to have read about the plight of the animals during the Civil War while visiting the library.

The new three-level building is spacious, airy, and modern, yet is designed to resemble a carriage house for the adjacent mansion and, thus, blends in nicely with its surroundings. The library's collection of more than 11,000 sporting

The National Sporting Library has a new home for its collection of sporting art and books

books dating from the 1500s previously was housed in the lower level of Vine Hill in a space meant to hold fewer than 5,000 volumes. The new building is climate-controlled for heat and humidity and includes a state-of-the-art security system.

Climate control and security are important features, because some of the collections at the National Sporting Library are extremely rare and valuable. The library's oldest book, *Artis Veterinariae*, thought to be the first published work of veterinary medicine, is from 1528. Another priceless volume is Theodore Roosevelt's handwritten draft of an 1886 magazine article, "Riding to Hounds on Long Island," in which the future president expresses his outrage at people who oppose fox hunting. The manuscript is part of a 5,000-volume collection from John H. Daniels.

Yet another rare collection, courtesy of the Ohrstrom Foundation, is the original collection of the 18th Century German riding master and author, Ludwig Baron von Henerdorf. The 205 horse books were published over the course of five centuries. *Artis Veterinariae* comes from this collection.

The Ohrstrom name has been vitally important to the library since its founding. George Ohrstrom Jr., the chairman of the board, took over the project after his father's death in 1955. Ohrstrom may be better known in sport horse circles (the Ohrstrom family publishes *The Chronicle of the Horse*), but he also is the owner and breeder of 1998 Hempstead Handicap (gr. I) winner Mossflower. Clarke Ohrstrom serves as the library's treasurer.

Others who have played major roles

are Jacqueline B. Mars, the vice chairman and daughter of the later Forrest Mars Sr., a founding patron of the library; Edward P. Evans, Virginia's Thoroughbred breeder of the year in 1998; and Helen Groves and the Kleberg Foundation of Texas.

The National Sporting Library is open to the public, though it does not loan books to individuals in the manner of a public library. The extensive volumes, ranging from children's books to reference material, lend themselves to pleasure readers or serious researchers. The atmosphere, enhanced by a wonderful collection of sporting art, is appropriately sedate, but there are some modern touches, not the least of which is a state-of-the-art audio-visual system in the Founders Room.

A membership organization, Friends of the National Sporting Library, helps support the library, which also benefits from an annual auction of duplicate books the library receives. Members receive a quarterly newsletter, notice of exhibitions and lectures, and other benefits.

Kenneth Tomlinson, the former editor-in-chief of *Reader's Digest* and an occasional contributor to *The Blood-Horse*, is president and director of the National Sporting Library. Tomlinson hopes to expand the membership through premiums and enhanced benefits, such as pre-exhibit receptions, monthly lectures on a variety of topics, and other activities.

Membership categories range from \$50 to patron memberships of \$2,500. It goes without saying that the library is always looking to strengthen its collection of books and sporting art. For further information, call assistant director Kelly Jordan at (540) 687-6542, or visit the library's website (at www.nsl.org).

This is a cause worthy of everyone's support. No politics. No hidden agendas. Just an unyielding devotion to the preservation of a great heritage. Middleburg, a town of just 600 people, is about 50 miles west of Washington, D.C., and even closer to Dulles Airport. It is well worth the trip for anyone with an interest in the history of horse and field sports. ■

Director Kenneth Y. Tomlinson

Preserving Our Sporting Culture

The first-time visitor to the new National Sporting Library cannot help but be overwhelmed by the splendor of the facility.

As I came to know the Library, I also was struck by just how few families and individuals were actually responsible for building this magnificent facility—and the extraordinary collection that it houses.

But I quickly came to realize that for this institution to fulfill its potential as a dynamic cultural force, we would have to widen the spectrum of those financially committed to the future of the National Sporting Library.

This we are well on the way to achieving.

As the year ended, more than 50 NSL supporters had agreed to be members of the Chairman's Council, each contributing a minimum of \$2500 (and some much more) to the operating budget of the Library. By spring, membership in this select group of supporters could exceed 75. (See a partial list of Chairman's Council members on the *Newsletter's* back page.)

In coming days, we will be mailing renewal notices to the friends of the Library, and while we are asking for increased levels of giving from the friends, we have no doubt that support will be forthcoming.

One factor in the success we have enjoyed in fund raising is the sporting community's gratitude to those benefactors who enabled us to have such a marvelous facility. I get the impression that many Friends sensed that if these benefactors could contribute hundreds of thousands, then we could pony up \$2500.

Another factor in increasing previous levels of support is the absolute joy people experience using the

Library. Thoroughbred owners wanted to be a part of the Chairman's Council so they could stop by the Library to view live racing via the NTRA's TVG satellite network. (They'll never have to drive over the mountain to Charles Town again.)

The size of audiences for our Friday lecture series threatens to spill over into the foyer, where, thanks to our extended sound system we can accommodate overflow crowds.

Exhibition preview receptions—such as the one for Eleanor Iselin Wade in the Forrest Mars Sr. Exhibit Hall—fall into the category of not-to-be-missed events. And you will see elsewhere in the *Newsletter* that the recently concluded duplicate book sale was up more than 35 percent.

But I also sense that the significant increase in financial support for the Library is linked to the growing awareness of the role we play in preserving both our individual sporting passions and the open-space culture so vital to these pursuits.

Perpetuating the Library's role as a research center for turf and field sports is an important part of this big picture.

Toward this end, an anonymous donor has pledged \$100,000 toward a million dollar endowment we must raise by year 2002 to support

research and writing of papers and books on topics related to turf and field sports. (In the future we want to do the same with documentaries through our Edward P. Evans Media Center and Film Library.)

As soon as we raise a significant portion of the million-dollar endowment, we will announce plans for competition for grants for research and writing projects. We plan well-publicized competitions—and hope the notoriety associated with our efforts will encourage writers and scholars to come up with inspired projects that can be researched utilizing our 15,000-book collection. I spent the bulk of my professional life writing and editing, and I so look forward to working on these projects.

No doubt some of our members have association with educational foundations who could help speed us toward our million-dollar goal. Please contact me at the Library if you have leads. In the tradition of a rising tide lifting all boats, stimulating research (and papers and books) will provide a very real legacy for the future of this institution.

Meanwhile, when in coming weeks you receive your solicitation to renew your membership, I trust you will make every effort to increase your level of giving. Our future rests in your hands.



Chairman's Council members enjoy a recent visit to the National Sporting Library. Left to right: Robert W. Newton, Sam Huff, Director Kenneth Tomlinson, Linda D. Newton.

Surprises Greet Volunteers in NSL Archives

Some are professionals who can get to the library only for night-time events and weekend research. Others are retired and devote full days to the NSL.

"These volunteers are critical to the vitality of the National Sporting Library," declared Chairman George L. Ohrstrom at a recent reception honoring those who give time to the library.

They're a dependable group. "You know it's Tuesday when you see **June Ruhsam** behind the desk," one observer remarked. "When you see **George Hottel**, you know it's Wednesday."

Ruhsam once served as the NSL's librarian. Hottel is a retired corporate executive.

At Friday evening lectures you might see Morgan Stanley vice president **Angela Antonelli** or retired bloodstock agent **Michael Motion** pouring drinks for patrons. From the library's grand opening dedication to monthly social functions, the presence of volunteers systematically spaced throughout the library provides the security that enables us to open the stacks to visitors.

Security may well be the most important function of the volunteers, but some also have become important adjuncts to the professional staff.

Tria Pell Dove began organizing the papers of renowned sportsman **Harry Worchester Smith** stored in ancient boxes moved to the library's storage room from Vine Hill. One day she reached into a stack of non-

descript papers and pulled out a notebook which turned out to be the diary Smith kept during the Great Foxhound Match of 1905 when Smith's American hounds bested A. Henry Higginson's English pack.

Frederick, Maryland, lawyer **Irving Abb** also has been archiving the Smith papers. Asked about his most interesting discoveries, Abb laughs as he recounts his discoveries of Smith's highly negative commentary directed at fellow (and prominent) sportsmen.

Alice Porter is an equine artist and Fairfax art teacher who once was the photo archivist for Mystic Marine Life Aquarium. She is archiving the boxes of photographs that had been in storage at Vine Hill for years.

"It's fascinating to read the notes of [library founder] **Alexander MacKay-Smith** that are systematically inscribed on the back of many photographs. "Sometimes it's as if I can hear his voice."

NSL also is fortunate to have attracted professional librarians who are regular volunteers. They include **Nancy Westrick**, a global knowledge specialist for the Oracle Corporation, **J.O. Wallace**, a librarian for a major Washington law firm, and **Anita Ramos**, a librarian in Fairfax County.

Another regular volunteer is director emeritus **Peter Winants**, who remains the most important source for researchers using the library. Winants is the author of a forthcoming definitive book on the history of steeplechasing in America to be published this fall by Derrydale Press.

For information on volunteering at the library, phone **Ellen Horner** at 540-687-6542 or **Rebecca Tomlinson** at 540-364-1940.

Eleanor Iselin Wade Exhibition Opening

Members enjoyed meeting 89-year-old **Eleanor Wade** at the opening of her exhibit of bronzes and works on paper, on view at the Library through February. A 1927 graduate of Foxcroft School, Mrs. Wade had not visited the Middleburg area for over 70 years.

An article by Exhibits Curator **Elizabeth Manierre** discussing Mrs. Wade's life and work appeared in the December 1999/January 2000 issue of *The Equine Image* magazine.



Top: Mrs. Wade (left) greets NSL member **Anne Lackman** at the opening reception on 3 December 1999. Below: Exhibits Curator **Elizabeth (Betsy) R. Manierre** with **Field Horne**, collections curator at the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame. Horne originally curated the exhibition for the racing museum in Saratoga Springs, New York.

The fourth Thursday
of the month is
FILM NIGHT
at the National Sporting
Library, at 7:30 p.m.

New Appointments

(continued from page 1) administrative assistant.

Robert Weber recently completed his work in library science at the University of Kentucky.

In 1998 he received a master's degree in American history from the College of William and Mary, where he also served as coach of the crew team. Weber is a 1995 alumnus of Wabash College, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude*. A varsity swimmer, he served as the coach of the Montgomery County Special Olympics Swim Team.

"I have a great appreciation for the work of special libraries—and the National Sporting Library is clearly one of the most extraordinary institutions of its kind in the world," said Weber. "I am honored to be a part of it."

Weber was highly recommended to the NSL by William Marshall Jr., director of Special Collections and Archives at the University of Kentucky.

Ellen Horner, a native of Monkton, Maryland, returned to riding horses after managing the Velodrome in Northbrook, Illinois. There she organized both bicycle racing and fundraising and was Illinois state champion for road and track racing and mountain biking. Horner also worked as a bond futures trader at the Chicago Board of Trade.

After returning to this area, Horner won six races last year, including the John Rush Street Memorial at My Lady's Manor.

Alan Porter

(continued from page 3) it causes horses to become unsound. Porter dismisses the idea. "Inbreeding does not create faults. . . it reveals them, while outcrossing would disguise them."



Ellen Horner is the NSL's new Director of Operations.

The past two year's near-Triple Crown winners Real Quiet and Charismatic came under Porter's scrutiny.

"Real Quiet was purposely bred the way he was," Porter said. "There's a whole bunch of things going on here. He's inbred to Raise a Native, the fastest horse that ever ran in America—and to Rough and Tumble and back to La Troienne (a fabulously successful brood mare). "Charismatic is inbred to Secretariat and his half-brother Sir Gaylord with another cross of Bold Ruler on the bottom (female side) of the family. He resembles Secretariat much more than his own sire, Summer Squall. Secretariat needed a lot of work, and Charismatic began to come around when they started working him harder."

Some crosses that are now working which breeders may use to their advantage:

Tom Fool and Flaming Page has produced Mecke, Beautiful Pleasure, Link River and Storm Song.

Storm Bird and Nijinsky: High Yield, Tale of the Cat.

Vice Regent and The Minstrel: Unaccounted For.

Graustark and Majestic Light, through Your Hostess and Flower Bowl: Chilito, Secret Pad, and Three Rings—not expensive horses that became stakes winners.

Mr. Prospector and Alydar are both sons of Raise A Native with Nasrullah, Bull Dog and Blue Larkspur. Thunder Gulch, a grandson of Mr. Prospector, has his first American stakes winner out of an Alydar mare.

Porter noted other matings that worked. One was West Court Magic, an English horse by a stallion that never won a race out of a mare that was a cheap claimer. The horse won six races at two and was Group II stakes-placed.

Another was last year's two-year-old filly champion in Canada, Fantasy Lake, by a stallion with a \$5,000 stud fee at the time.

"These are three that worked," Porter said. "I could show you 20 or 30 that didn't."

"There are no magic bullets, no gurus, no methods," he said. "I don't think anyone of us can say for certain if it will work. But there are some methods that give us better chances than most."

Directors of The National Sporting Library

Arthur W. Arundel
Magalen O. Bryant
Jane Forbes Clark
James Cummins
John H. Daniels
Edward P. Evans
Diana J. Firestone
Helen K. Groves
George A. Horkan, Jr.
Jacqueline B. Mars
George L. Ohrstrom, Jr.
Pamela B. Ohrstrom
F. Turner Reuter, Jr.
B. Francis Saul II
Joan Irvine Smith
Robert H. Smith
William C. Steinkraus
John von Stade
Don W. Wilson
Peter Winants
James L. Young

The Chairman's Council

These friends of the National Sporting Library have taken a leadership role in their support of the Library by joining the Chairman's Council. Membership of the Council as of January 2000 is as follows:

Mr. and Mrs. William Abel Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Walter A. Abendschein
Joseph Albritton
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Arundel
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1999 National Sporting Library Duplicate Book Sale Results

- * This year's sale was an outstanding success--outperforming last year's by 35%.
- * The sale attracted 107 bidders from 24 states as well as Japan, Spain, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Of the 376 lots offered, 285 received bids.
- * Five items attracted eight bids apiece: Lot 373, *Town & Country* magazines; Lot 312, *Snaffles*, by John and Rupert Collins; Lot 224, *Foxhunting Formalities*, by Stanley Reese; Lot 188, *Whips and Whipmaking*, by David Morgan; and Lot 54, *Hunting by Scent*, by H.M. Budgett
- * The highest bid received was \$1000 for Sabretache's *More Shires and Provinces*.

LIBRARY HOURS

Monday: 1:00-4:00 p.m. Tuesday - Friday: 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Weekends by appointment.



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